

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph, beginning at page 5, line 1, with the following rewritten paragraph:

FIG. 3 shows a starting fiber 10 used to manufacture a microchannel plate for use as an electron multiplier. The fiber 10 includes a glass core 12 and a glass cladding 14 surrounding the core. The core 12 is made of a material that is etchable in an appropriate etching solution such that the core can be subsequently removed. The glass cladding 14 is made from a glass which has softening temperature substantially the same as the glass core 2. The glass material of the cladding 14 is different from that of the core 12 in that it has a higher lead content which renders it non-etchable under the conditions used for etching the core material. See, for example, U.S. Patent No. 4,912,314 or 5,378,955. Thus, the cladding 14 remains after the etching of the glass core 12 and becomes a boundary for the channel 32 which is left.